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Negotiate Now

Everyone is today interested in our near neighbor, Cuba, which our government has now forbidden citizens of the United States to visit. Two good American citizens have, just previous to imposition of the C.I.A. curtailment, made an extensive examination of the island, its people, their doings, etc. They are Jesse Gordon, one of America's leading public relations authorities, and General Hugh B. Hester, U.S.A., former food administrator of the American Zone of Berlin, honored with Distinguished Service Medal, and author on foreign affairs.

These two distinguished citizens have written an account of their recent Cuban visit for the April New World Review, an article which all should read, but since many will not see, I beg leave to quote the summary of these apparently careful observers.

"We think a detente would be in the best interests of both countries. President Kennedy and Premier Castro have both declared publicly that they are ready to 'begin anew' to seek a solution. The memorable words in Mr. Kennedy's inaugural address were: 'Let us never fear to negotiate.' There should be immediate negotiation. We therefore suggest that President Kennedy and Premier Castro meet personally on neutral territory, possibly somewhere in Mexico, to discuss:

"Restoration of normal diplomatic relations.

"The appointment of a joint commission to study reparations for American businesses nationalized by Cuba."

"Repeal of the sugar embargo."

"Banning of the Swan Island radio broadcasts and all other propaganda on both sides."

"The drawing up of new trade agreements."

"Stimulation of tourist exchanges."

"The vacating of the Guantanamo naval base."

"Aid to Cuba with financing or loans."

"Repatriation wherever possible of Cuban refugees now residing in the United States under treaty

CPYRGHT guarantees for their safety against political reprisal."

"As a preliminary to the conference, President Kennedy might well announce that he is meeting the Cuban leader on a basis of equality, that he recognizes that the Government of Cuba must be free to resolve its own problems without any outside interference."

We should also remember that the United States is a member of U.N. pledged "to live as a good neighbor" and "refrain from use of force or threat of force" in international affairs.

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